



PLANNED PARENTHOOD: WHAT IS THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING

On August 14, the Oversight and Government Reform Committee sent letters to Ms. Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Burwell in light of disturbing videos of fetal tissue procurement. These videos may implicate Planned Parenthood and its affiliates in potentially unlawful transactions involving fetal tissue.

In the videos, Planned Parenthood representatives discuss the demand for certain body parts, the manner in which patient consent is solicited, pricing considerations, and the methods by which doctors manipulate procedures to ensure that tissue and organs remain intact.

In one video, a Planned Parenthood official discusses how doctors modify procedures to preserve intact fetal specimens that can be provided to research firms in exchange for money. The Planned Parenthood official also discusses how reimbursement amounts can be manipulated.

The Committee is interested in knowing whether federal funds are being used to finance this potentially illegal conduct and wants to understand the role of federal funding in Planned Parenthood operations.

In that HHS provides a significant portion of the federal funds that Planned Parenthood receives, the Committee seeks to understand the Department's oversight of these funds including what restrictions or regulations apply to the use of funding provided by HHS to Planned Parenthood or its affiliates.

In FY2014, Planned Parenthood reported approximately **\$1.3 billion in total revenue**, of which **\$528.4 million is attributed to "government health services grants and reimbursement."** This accounts for **more than 40%** of the organization's total revenue.

According to the 2013-2014 Annual Report, Planned Parenthood "supports 66 independently incorporated affiliates, operating approximately 700 health centers across the U.S."

Additionally, the Committee is interested in understanding what procedures, services, or other medical treatments are available only or exclusively at a Planned Parenthood affiliate or health center that are covered by either a state's Medicaid program or a health plan sold via a state exchange or HealthCare.gov under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

In addition to the various documents requested by the committee to answer these questions, the Committee also seeks staff briefings from both Planned Parenthood and HHS by August 28.